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December 2, 2013

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Public Service Commission
Fax 803.896.5246

and

Charles L.A. Terrini, Esquire
Terreni Law Firm, LLC
(no address provided)
1508 Lady Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Fax 803.771.8778

and

Scott Elliott, Esquire
Elliott & Elliott, P.A.
1508 Lady Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
Fax 803.771.8010

RE: Docket No. 2013-275-WS

Dear Sirs:

My husband and I have been customers of Utilities Inc., also known as Carolina Water Service, Inc. for almost 2 years. The requested rate increase of 26% (from \$40.56 to \$51.03/month for sewer alone) is simply outrageous at this time of economic volatility. No company I know has received this type of funding increase including public agencies or private companies. I officially protest this proposed rate increase. It is inappropriate to ask for funding increases due to poor judgment on their part.

I spoke with Mr. Steve Libertozi (sp?) and he informed me that some of the repairs/upgrades needed are because the company accepted older systems into their

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responsibility for service. This privately owned company should not agree to accept systems that are not maintained properly into their system and then expect others to pay for that poor decision. I requested additional information over a month ago – service area maps as well as maps showing proposed improvements. On November 26, I called Mr. Libertozi again and requested a list of improvements listing the city and/or county and state of the improvements since maps seem to be unavailable. I don't believe our neighborhood (newly constructed) should be included in a rate increase that is being caused by Utilities, Inc.'s bad decisions and judgment in other areas of the state. I still haven't received a response.

I see in Mr. Patrick Flynn's testimony, posted to the docket website on November 19, a list of improvements done since the last rate increase. For sewer, which is what we have service from them on, the completed improvements total \$1.903 million. For water, the total is \$88,000. That leaves \$2.809 million in proposed improvements, which is the bulk of the \$4.8 million they list in their original letter to the property owners. According to that letter (sent September 27, 2013), the planned investments were to occur by the end of 2013. I would like to see documentation that those improvements are completed by the end of this year, since the increase proposed would include that additional \$2.809 million in improvements. I don't believe we should pay for improvements that are proposed and may never be constructed.

I appreciate you scheduling a public hearing in Columbia off of business hours the same day of the Commission Meeting on January 14, 2014. I still ask why there is no other way to be heard on the record, other than attendance at the Commission Meeting. I expected either Mr. Terrini or Mr. Elliott to respond to my previous request with the company's policy for public meetings and how official "on the record" comments can be made. In this day of technology, a written response or an internet response should be accepted on the record. I am again requesting a written policy that states how public hearings are conducted for the company.

Because we are still unsure if the night public hearing comments will be officially on the record, my husband and I (Charles Douglas Price, Jr. and Katherine Holland Price) still both request to speak at the 10:00 hearing unless we are assured that comments at the 6:00 meeting will be on the record. We will each need approximately 5 minutes, for a total of 10 minutes.

Sincerely,



Katherine Price